

Faith United Methodist Church

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2019

† OPENING PRAYER

Worker God, whose hands built the earth, molded our bodies, and sowed the stars across the sky, we gather in your presence this morning with praise and thanksgiving for your mighty deeds. Meet us here, Worker God; strengthen our hearts and our hands to work with you in the building of a world filled with justice and peace.

† CALL TO WORSHIP (*RESPONSIVELY*)

Leader God said, "Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

People *But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord."*

Leader Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,

People *And I will give you rest."*

Leader We come in the name of the Spirit, resting from our labors.

People *Let us worship God this day!*

† OPENING HYMN 92

For the Beauty of the Earth

LABOR DAY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we give thanks for work, and for the many works you have given us to do. Hear our prayers on this day of rest and strengthen us for the week ahead. We pray that you would be present with those who work by day, and those who work by night; those who work near, and those whose work carries them far away; and we pray for those who in this uncertain time have no job. We pray all of this knowing that your labors on our behalf never cease, and that your yoke is easy, and your burden is light.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*IN UNISON*)

Holy God, we would rather go our own way and avoid the training you insist on giving us. We like to be easy-going, slack in our morals, haphazard in our prayers, spiritually out of condition. Forgive such denial of our responsibilities as your children, so unlike your true and perfect Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God knows us and loves us. God puts aside our sins and our failures and ever calls us to new life and service in the power of the Spirit.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 81: 1, 10-16

Page 419, pew Bible

† NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Page 739, pew Bible

OFFERTORY

Heavenly Father, accept these gifts and bless them as well as those who have presented them. May they be used to extend the prophetic ministry of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Page 95, UMH

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One, accept our offerings and designate some of us to serve you in the ministry so that more people and nations shall worship you. Amen.

† HYMN 395

Take Time to Be Holy

SERMON

A Sweet Way to Work

Rev. David A. E. Whitt

† HYMN 378

Amazing Grace

† PRAYER

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers for others in the Name of your Son, Jesus Christ. We pray that you will bless and extend your church. Lead your people from truth to truth, and in the truth from strength to strength.

EUCHARIST (SEE BULLETIN ENCLOSURE)

† BENEDICTION

The Spirit of God is upon you and has anointed you. You are the salt of the earth and you bring light to the world. You are not too young or too old, you are not too rich or too needy to bring good news to the impoverished, to give a hand to the broken-hearted, and to live out freedom and pardon through the gifts you have been given. So, remember to pack peace in your toolbox, hope in your briefcase, love in your lunch box; and may integrity, honesty, and joy be your designer wear of choice. Do not be frightened, for you are never alone. The God in whose image you are made will walk with you and guide you today, tomorrow, and every day.

† HYMN 666

Shalom to You



Good morning and welcome to Faith United Methodist Church. Our hope is that you will feel God's presence through friendly faces, meaningful worship, and opportunities to serve God's people. We are blessed by your presence and our doors are always open to you. *Please complete a visitor card found in the back of the pew in front of you and give it to an usher.* We have a gift for you that we feel will have an impact on your life! We hope you feel at home and invite you to worship with us again.